CHILTON'S

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES

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THE SECOND COMING OF ...SLER

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CHILTON'S AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES

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Electric Shock!

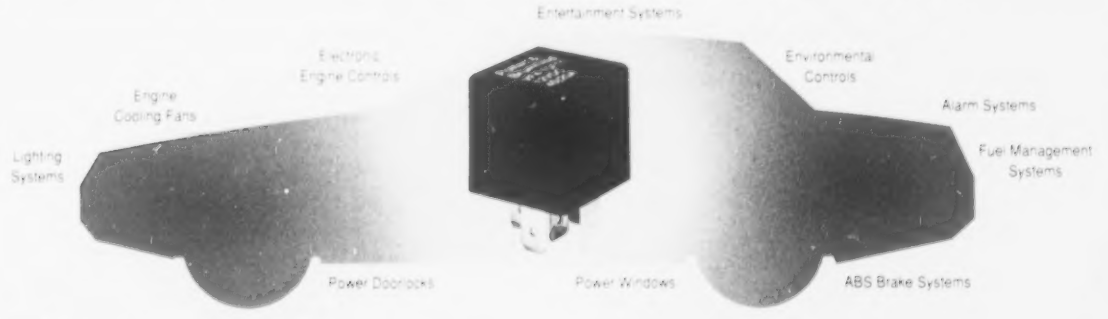
The recent Tokyo Auto Show touted an "electric vehicle showcase" that probably did more harm to the technology than good. Huddled off in a makeshift tent were gathered mostly **undeveloped, impractical examples of electric cars**. Some vehicles had 40 mph top speeds, some had a range of 50-60 miles and some were cobbled together with duct tape (honest!). Those vehicles that managed marginally acceptable range or performance relied on environmentally questionable nickel cadmium batteries. Meanwhile, back in the States, the Automotive Battery Consortium and the Department of Energy have announced a joint $250 million R&D program to achieve a battery breakthrough.

Continental Divide

In the US, 1990 sales of diesel-powered vehicles remained pretty much as they always have – slow and incremental. But across the Atlantic, **Europeans bought oil-burners at record levels**. A total of 1,879,566 were sold Europe-wide, and in France and Belgium they accounted for one-third of total sales. By ranking, the most popular models in Europe are:

	Model	1990 sales
1	VW Golf	131,588
2	Peugeot 405	116,157
3	Peugeot 205	102,110
4	Renault 21	97,042
5	Citroen BX	88,292
6	Renault 19	79,779
7	Mercedes-Benz W124	77,016
8	Peugeot 309	68,889
9	Ford Escort	63,190
10	GM Kadett/Astra	61,021

P&B relays handle tough automotive switching problems



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